

Quotes from Supporters

“Common education standards are essential for producing the educated work force America needs to remain globally competitive. This voluntary state-lead effort will help ensure that all students can receive the college- and career-ready, world-class education they deserve, no matter where they live. I applaud the states’ efforts that got us here today and the work of NGA, CCSSO and Achieve in supporting this important achievement.”

- **Craig Barrett, Former CEO and Chairman of the Board, Intel Corporation**

“The K-12 standards work recognizes that students in the United States are now competing in an international environment and will need to meet international benchmarks to remain relevant in today’s workplace. We are pleased that both college *and* career readiness have been considered as the standards were developed and view this work as foundational in the effort to address the full range of academic, employability and technical skills that students need to be successful. ACTE looks forward to working with NGA, CCSSO and states as the K-12 standards are implemented.”

- **Janet B. Bray, CAE, Executive Director, Association for Career and Technical Education**

“This is an historic day for American public education and for our nation as we begin the journey to level the academic playing field for every student. State Boards of Education are ready to play an active role in this process and some have already started the progression of adoption. We are eager to move this agenda forward.”

- **William Bradley Bryant, Georgia State Board of Education**

“The common core standards finally make real the promise of American public education to expect the best of all our schoolchildren.”

- **Michael Casserly, Executive Director, Council of the Great City Schools**

“The K-12 Common Core State Standards represent a major advance in standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts. They are grounded in evidence about what it takes for high school graduates to be ready for college and careers and build on the finest state and international standards. Importantly, they provide a clear and focused progression of learning from kindergarten to graduation that will provide teachers, administrators, parents and students with the information they need for student success. Achieve encourages every state to adopt and fully implement the Common Core State Standards.”

- **Michael Cohen, President, Achieve**

“AASA is pleased to support the process for the creation of common core standards currently led by the NGA and the CCSSO. We clearly understand the need for common standards, voluntarily adopted by each state, if the United States is to remain competitive in the global education environment. We also support the underlying concept of higher, clearer, fairer standards and agree that they will contribute to improve the quality of instruction in our schools and the raising of student achievement levels.”

- **Dan Domenech, Executive Director, AASA**

“We believe that this initiative is a critical first step in our nation’s effort to provide every student with a comprehensive, content-rich and complete education. These standards have the potential to support teachers in achieving NEA’s purpose of preparing students to ‘thrive in a democratic society and a diverse, changing world as knowledgeable, creative and engaged citizens and lifelong learners.’”

- Lily Eskelsen, Vice-President, National Education Association

"National PTA enthusiastically supports the adoption and implementation by all states of the Common Core State Standards, which were recently released in final form. The K-12 standards for math and English Language Arts are challenging and clear, and states that adopt them will be on their way to graduating more of their high school students ready for college and career. The standards form a solid foundation for the high quality education systems that states must build. If states adopt the standards and align their curriculum, assessments and professional development to the new standards, many more of their students will graduate with the skills they need to succeed in college or a career."

- Byron V. Garrett, CEO, National Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

"With the states' release today of a set of clear and consistent academic standards, our nation is one step closer to supporting effective teaching in every classroom, charting a path to college and careers for all students, and developing the tools to help all children stay motivated and engaged in their own education. The more states that adopt these college and career based standards, the closer we will be to sharing innovation across state borders and becoming more competitive as a country."

- Bill Gates, Co-Chair, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

"The Common Core State Standards Initiative is an important step forward in ensuring that the United States remains competitive in the global economy. Career technical education (CTE) shares the Initiative's goal that all students must be college and career ready. CTE programs that incorporate the Common Core Standards will ensure students have the academic and technical knowledge and skills to be successful in the 21st century workplace."

- Kimberly Green, Executive Director, National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium

"Nearly a century ago, Andrew Carnegie said that educated citizens were the strength of American democracy. While that fact remains true today, our competitive 21st century world requires innovative educational strategies that will enable students to succeed in a global economy. Indeed, in an age overwhelmed by information, there is a genuine need to create a real and meaningful transformation of our education system that will help students learn how to organize information into knowledge—as well as protect the promise of social mobility for young people that lies at the heart of the American dream. I welcome the development of common standards as a necessary step in the process of reform and I salute the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers for leading the way."

- Vartan Gregorian, President, Carnegie Corporation of New York

The Common Core Standards could presage a breakthrough in the dreary record of 8th-grade reading scores over the past 40 years. Based on sound principles from cognitive science, the new language-arts standards place a unique emphasis from the earliest grades on science, history, and the arts, so that students will gradually build the general knowledge they need to read and to comprehend. The standards state that they can only be properly implemented both within a grade and in moving from one grade to the next through a coherent, cumulative progression of knowledge -- not just a collection of readings. (An excellent illustration of such a progression is the example on "the human body.") Also very welcome, in this final version is the emphasis on civic knowledge and on the seminal texts of the nation. These standards mark, then, a real advance on even the best of existing state language-arts standards. If they are indeed accompanied by a coherent curriculum that ensures students accumulate

needed knowledge starting in earliest grades, they will form a platform on which we can finally address the literacy crisis in this country.

-E.D. Hirsch

“For years we have struggled to articulate expectations and standards to help all students achieve their full potential. In particular, we have struggled to align student learning at the end of high school with the demands of college-level work, beginning with core areas such as mathematics and language arts. This task has become more of an obligation as we open the doors of higher education to more students, and it has become more important as we seek to ensure student success, increase education attainment, and meet the demands of a competitive workplace and global economy. Clear learning goals for these fundamental skills through K-12 education will give students and teachers a better roadmap toward the goal of success in college and life.”

- Paul E. Lingenfelter, President, State Higher Education Executive Officers

“Common standards ensure that every child across the country is getting the best possible education, no matter where a child lives or what their background is. The common standards will provide an accessible roadmap for schools, teachers, parents and students, with clear and realistic goals.”

- Gov. Roy Romer, Senior Advisor, The College Board

“State Farm is pleased to support the Common Core State Standards Initiative. State by State adoption of these standards is an important step towards maintaining our country’s competitive edge. With a skilled and prepared workforce, the business community will be better prepared to face the challenges of the international marketplace.”

- Edward B. Rust Jr., Chairman and CEO, State Farm Insurance Companies

“We at ACT offer our deep support for the Common Core State Standards Initiative and its goal to prepare all students for college and career. The standards are unique in that they are based on decades of sound empirical data on what students must know and be able to do to succeed after high school.”

- Cynthia B. Schmeiser, Education Division President and Chief Operating Officer, ACT

"If we use these common standards as the foundation for better schools, we can give all kids a robust curriculum taught by well-prepared, well-supported teachers who can help prepare them for success in college, life and careers."

- Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers

“Today's release of the Common Core Standards in math and English language arts marks the first step in realizing the goal of establishing consistent and aligned standards across the nation. We recognize that today's release is only the beginning of the process to transform our schools and The National Association of State Boards of Education looks forward to assisting state boards as they move forward with implementation.”

- Brenda L. Welburn, CEO, National Association of State Boards of Education

“The National Center for Learning Disabilities is pleased to support the Common Core Standards. We applaud and appreciate the work of the NGA and CCSSO and the expectation that all students can achieve high standards and become college and/or career ready. We are prepared to support families, teachers, schools and states as they strive to help all students succeed.”

- James H. Wendorf, Executive Director, National Center for Learning Disabilities

“Now, perhaps more than ever before, high quality education serves as a vital pathway out of poverty, both in the U.S. and abroad. If our country is not just to compete, but also win in that global environment, we must continue to shake off the educational status quo and reinvigorate our schools and students with innovative ways of thinking, learning and doing. Put simply, the nation’s future depends upon our willingness today to create a new educational framework, one that raises academic expectations of all children and provides them the skills, tools and resources needed to succeed. The broad adoption of common academic standards is integral to that framework and, thanks to the efforts of the Council of Chief State School Officers and National Governors Association, is increasingly closer to becoming a welcome reality.”

- William S. White, CEO and President, C.S. Mott Foundation

“Zip codes might be great for sorting mail, but they should not determine the quality of a child’s education or success in the future workforce,” said Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia. “With common standards and assessments, students, parents, and teachers will have a clear, consistent understanding of the skills necessary for students to succeed after high school and compete with peers across the state line and across the ocean.”

- Gov. Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education

The Common Core mathematics standards succeed in being both mathematically coherent and grade level appropriate. Overall, they are the best standards that I have seen in the past twenty years. If we can design a professional development program of the same caliber to go with these standards, then our nation will be making a substantial first step towards educational excellence in mathematics.

- Dr. Hung-Hsi Wu, Professor of Mathematics, University of California at Berkeley